

ADV 17.8.23

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THE SEASON'S
PROSPECTS.

1923-24

GOOD YIELD EXPECTED.

As the heavy winter rains have hindered sowing, the cropped areas for the coming season will show very little variance in the aggregate for the State, in comparison with the previous season. The present prospects, however, indicate a reasonable probability of a much greater yield per acre for all crops. The averages per acre for last season were:—Wheat, 11.73 bushels; barley, 16.56 bushels; oats, 9.53 bushels. Summarised, that is the report of the Government Statist.

From ordinary general reports obtained early in August from every cereal and hay district of South Australia respecting the area sown and present prospects, the Government Statist (Mr. W. L. Johnston) has based the following statement regarding the 1923-24 season:—

The area under crop for grain, hay, and other products last season was 2,830,591 acres, and for the present season that is not likely to be exceeded by more than 10,000 acres, unless a considerable amount of very late sowing is done.

Central—1922-23, 651,258 acres. Owing to the exceptionally heavy winter rains, sowing was retarded in the central division to such an extent that a decrease of 57,000 acres is probable, Counties Gawler, Light, and Adelaide being the chief contributors to this decrease. The prospects in this division are favorable for good yields.

Lower North—1922-23, 822,424 acres. County Daly indicates a probable increased area of 15,000 acres, and County Stanley a decrease of 17,000 acres. As a whole the division will probably maintain last season's acreage. The prospects are generally very favorable for good yields.

Upper North Division—1922-23, 265,434 acres. The season has been most favorable in this division and heavy yields are probable. The acreage of last year is expected to show an increase. There is, however, a tendency in some portions of this division to return to pastoral activities instead of cropping.

South-Eastern Division—1922-23, 50,716 acres. The season has been altogether too wet for wheat in this division, and the acreage will be decreased by about 10,000 acres.

Western Division—1922-23, 515,346 acres. The reports from this division are most favorable, the crops generally looking well and giving promise of heavy general yields. The acreage under wheat appears to be from 40,000 to 50,000 acres greater than last season. Numerous grubs are appearing in County Hopetoun, and some farmers are trenching against them.

Murray Mallee Division—1922-23, 525,051 acres. The reports from this division are optimistic. The sown areas indicate an increase of 30,000 acres over last season, and generally the crops are looking well and full of promise for substantial yields.

Barley—1922-23, 225,978 acres. The adverse condition of the market for barley is reported to have affected the area sown. County Fergusson about 3,000 acres less, County Grey 9,000 to 10,000 acres less, though this decrease may be lessened by later sowings. For the whole State, a decrease of 16,000 acres seem probable.

Oats—1922-23, 392,891 acres. The total area sown last season is expected to be increased by about 6,000 acres. In County Grey the decrease in the barley areas is being set off by an increase in the area under oats.